When you need to hear

A 'silent' misconception

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
MAKE WAY! HERE HE COMES!!
Lesson for December 14, 1980
Scripture References: Malachi 3:1-3;4:5-6; Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 3:1-12;11:7-15; 17:9-13
Focal Passages: Matthew 3:1-12
Introduction
Silence is not always golden! There are moments when you and I long to hear the refreshing sound of God breaking into our world of silence. We each experience those wilderness periods when all we hear are the sounds of silence. To experience the deadly silence of God can cause one's insides to churn.

Many years of silence followed the closing voices of the Old Testament. Years dragged on and there was no new word from the Lord. Around four hundred years later, God spoke with great power and authority. The long-awaited Messiah had finally come.

The Forecast [Mal. 3:1-5, 4:5-6; Isa. 40:1-11]

The prophet Malachi is important for understanding the place of John and Jesus in the biblical narrative. Malachi gave a forecast of coming events. He foretold the coming of two messengers, one of whom who would "prepare the way" for the other.

Our Christian interpretation of Malachi's forecast is inclined to claim John and Jesus as the two messengers. Of course, John became an important figure who gathered about him numerous followers. Some even wondered if John were primary over Jesus; but Matthew's recall of the Old Testament proved that John was only the forerunner or forecaster of Jesus.

Isaiah backs up this notion in his description of the "voice....that crieth in the wilderness." Thus, John is portrayed in the New Testament as the herald who trumpets the arrival of the Lord's annointed one. John's role and function was geared toward readying the people for God's Good News!

The Coming Of John [Matt. 3:1-6]

John the Baptist must have been a sight to behold! We know little about this "diamond in the rough" except that he was the priestly son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. He took his place in the world very seriously, with drawing to the wilderness to prepare himself for the part he would play in the divine drama.

The image we get of John is rather striking. He was the kind of person whose table manners and style of dress left an unforgettable impression!

He made his home in the wilderness and there prepared himself to proclaim the coming of the Messiah. John was an emphatic preacher. He preached a gospel of repentance and heralded the coming "kingdom of heaven." John's message would break asunder the years of silent waiting. And the one to come was not a military leader or great warrior. Instead, he would come to save people from their sin.

A voice in the wilderness! How we crave a voice in our wilderness, a word of hope to dash our feelings of hopelessness. The author recalls a period of life when all he heard was the long, deadly silence of God. When God finally broke through and spoke, it was like a ray of light in a dark underground cavern.

It's a good feeling when our lovely moments are broken by the warm voice of a good friend or loved one. The coming of Jesus was the greatest announcement for a people who for so long a time had lived in a world of silence, a silence they were largely responsible.

The Message Of John [Matt. 3:7-12]

The message of John was as refreshing as cool waters to parched lips. Of course, not all who came to John were overly welcomed. John was quite critical of the Pharisees and Sadducees. John was emphatic about wanting only those who came to him with right motives. John was determined that no one would enter the kingdom through the backdoor.

John preached that the kingdom he spoke of was not available to anyone on the basis of descent. To have family living in California does not qualify one to be a native Californian! To become a Californian, one at least must make his residence there.

The same is true of our Christian faith. To become a Christian means moving out of an "old residence" and into a "new residence." There must be some evidence to back up one's claim to repentance.

John preached a gospel that contained both the good news and the bad news. Good news is the opposite of bad news. The Bible is no different in that it presents both the good and the bad. Refusal to accept the invitation to repentance, so preached John, will result in divine judgment. John used the image of the fruitless tree and what happened to such trees.

John ends his message with a humble proclamation. He spoke of the one to come as..."he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to untie...."

John stepped down so that Jesus might emerge as the mighty annointed one!

Bill Trimyer is Chaplain at Burhnam Hospital in Champaign, Ill. (WLYP)

Bible and Daily Living

'Share-the-Fun' winners cited

4-H SHARE-THE-FUN - Junior Division Winners - kneeling (left to right) Terri Hamlett, Beth Carter, Freddie Pennix; Emily Shea, Timmy Turner, Standing (left to right) Anne Hancock, Mayor Ronnie Spiggle, representing American Federal Savings and Loan, Lisa Harrison, Kathy Bryan, Jeff Bates, Robin Miller, Brian Hudson, Tammy Weaver, Giuseppe Sheip.

4-H SHARE-THE-FUN Senior Division Winners (left to right) Mayor Ronnie Spiggle representing American Federal Savings and Loan Association; Michael McCoy, vocal winner, Marlene Watkins-dance winner, Kathy Parsons - dramatic winner, not pictured: Sandra Watkins - dance winner.

More than 200 4-H'ers, parents and friends of 4-H attended last Saturday's Annual 4-H Share-the-Fun Show held at Appomattox County High School. Thirty-three entertaining acts were presented by fifty-two performers in the program which culminated three weeks of 4-H Share-the-Fun activities.

Share-the-Fun is a special 4-H activity that allows young people to express and develop their talents and skills. Share-the-Fun acts are divided into five categories which include vocal, instrumental, dramatic, dance and general. In 1980 212 4-H members took part in Share-the-Fun programs and another 25 were involved in it as show helpers, emcees, back stage crews, etc.

American Federal Savings and Loan Association provided awards for all participants in 4-H Share-the-Fun. Mr. Ronnie Spiggle, Chairman of the Board of Directors of American Federal, presented special rosette ribbons to the following winning acts in the Senior Division: Vocal Category: Michael McCoy who played and sang "I'll See in the Rapture"; Dance Category: Sandra Watkins and Marlene Watkins who performed to "I've Just Begun to Love You;" and Dramatic Category: Kathy Parsons who performed "Bachelor's Buttons."

The top acts in the Junior Division included Vocal Category: Timmy Turner, Giuseppe Sheip and Freddie Pennix who sang "The Whizz"; Dramatic Category: Robin Miller, Brian Hudson, Tammy Weaver and Jeff Bates who presented a skit called "The Robbery;" Dance Category: Lisa Harrison and Anne Hancock who called their dance "My Shadow"; Instrumental Category: Terri Hamlett and Beth Carter who played a piano duet called "What Shall We Do;" and the General Category: Emily Shea who performed a gymnastic routine to "Alley Cat."

The top three Junior Division Acts received full and partial 4-H Camp Scholarships. These acts were: First: "The Robbery"; Second: "The Whizz" and Third: Kathy Bryan who sang "The Rose."

The following 4-H'ers and their topics performed in the Junior Division were:

Vocal Category: Annette Turner, Monique Elliott and Ada Hunter - "Holiness Gospel Singers," Lara McGrath - "Hopelessly Devoted to You," Alice Jackson - "We Are Soldiers," Brian Dickerson and Chris Ranson - "Mama Don't 'low," and Sherie Williams, Rhonda Ranson and Kathy White - "Wabash Cannonball."

Instrumental Category: Denise Daubenspeck - "March of the Woodsey Wood Folk," Robbie Coleman - "Scotch Guard," Jay Stubblefield - "Floating Clouds," and Susan Carnefix - "Sonatina."

Dramatic Category: Beth Marston and Kim Fuller -

Cont'd on page 10

In Israel

The prophetic voice

By PETER HALE, pastor
Appomattox Court House and Walker's Presbyterian Churches
Read Matthew 3:1-12.

This familiar passage, which relates the story of John the Baptist announcing the Kingdom of God, demonstrates the renewal of the prophetic voice in Israel.

The silence of four hundred years was broken. A long-awaited thing was about to happen, and the expectation of the people was high. A desert phenomenon, a man whose appearance spoke of committed values, whose devotion to truth did not bend for diplomacy, now thundered a message from God. The Kingdom was near, close, and one had best prepare for it. And people went to hear him and more baptized in the Jordan as a sign of their repentance.

The incident of the teaching in this passage has one part that has always troubled me. The Separation of the wheat from the chaff is used as an analogy for the separation between those who repent and those who do-not, or as a picture of the purification process involved in the baptism with fire, the separation of the real from the dross.

But have you ever considered the fact that with out the chaff there would be no wheat? Until the actual time of harvest the wheat was the chaff the straw and protective layers, which nurtured and protected the kernel until it was ready. Then it is cast away.

Sometime we need to see that the experiences of our faith are like the straw and chaff, and need to be cast off at the maturing of our faith to cling to past events and experiences is harmful.

The full kernel must be allowed freedom. We look ahead in faith, not backward!

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The Pastor Speaks

ARS gets 62 calls

The volunteer members of the Appomattox County Rescue Squad responded to a total of 62 emergency calls in the month of November. In response to these calls they traveled a total of 2,750 miles and spent 306 manhours.

The squad used the E.K.G. machine to monitor 13 persons en route to the hospital. There were 6 persons who required oxygen while being taken to the hospital. A break-down of the calls is as follows:

Abdominal pains, 4; Transport, 4; Chest pains, 16; Auto wreck, 5; Fall, 7; Stroke, 3; Breathing difficulty, 8; D.O.A. 1; Industrial accident, 1; Heart attack, 5; Maternity, 1; and Miscellaneous, 7.

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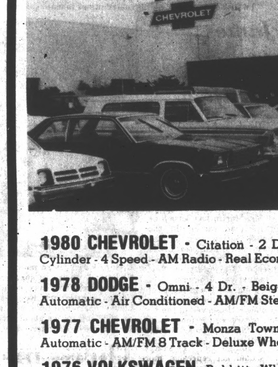

1980 CHEVROLET - Citation - 2 Dr. Cinnabar - Camel Cloth Interior - 4 Cylinder - 4 Speed - AM Radio - Real Economical Car - Rally Wheels

1978 DODGE - Omni - 4 Dr. - Beige - Camel Vinyl Interior - 4 Cylinder - Automatic - Air Conditioned - AM/FM Stereo - Front Wheel Drive

1977 CHEVROLET - Monza Town Coupe - Maroon - Maroon Interior - Automatic - AM/FM 8 Track - Deluxe Wheel Covers - Sport Mirrors

1976 VOLKSWAGEN - Rabbit - White Saddle Interior - 4 Speed - Rear Window Defogger - Air Conditioned

1977 CHEVROLET - Chevette - 2 Dr. - White - Red Interior - Automatic - AM Radio

1977 CHEVROLET - Chevette - 2 Dr. - Blue - Blue Interior - Automatic - AM Radio - Deluxe Wheel Covers

1976 CHEVROLET - Monza 2 + 2 - Blue - White Interior - New Engine - Automatic - Power Steering - AM Radio - Deluxe Wheel Covers

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Santa Claus is coming to town!
Tuesday, December 16 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Since there's no snow for his sleigh, Santa will arrive on an Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department truck. He has picked the American Federal office at Triangle Plaza for his visit and he's bringing lots of treats for all you kids. So tell your parents to bring their cameras and get a picture of you with Santa Claus.

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Tobacco market opens

BY TOM CONRAD

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS - The County Committee met at the ASCS office last Friday to tabulate the ballots for the 1981 community committee elections. The results of the tabulations are as follows: Stonewall Community - Chairman - James Bondurant; Vice-Chairman - J. P. Alvis, Jr.; Regular Member - Lyle Moore; 1st Alternate - Calvin Harris; 2nd Alternate - Lacy Webb. Cloverhill Community - Chairman - Marvin A. Glover, Jr.; Vice-Chairman - E. M. Covington; Regular Member - J. H. Rosser; 1st Alternate - G. Samuel Martin, Jr.; 2nd Alternate - Oliver L. Chambers. Southside Community - Chairman - Norman A. Booth; Vice-Chairman - J. T. Hunter, Jr.; Regular Member - H. B. Jones; 1st Alternate - H. W. Mann; 2nd Alternate - Coleman Robinson.

The gentlemen elected will help administer ASCS programs during the 1981 calendar year. They will be called upon at various times to meet with the County Committee to make decisions to best benefit farmers through various programs that are administered.

I would like to congratulate the above gentlemen and I would also like to thank all those that voted in this year's election.

The newly elected committeemen (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Regular Member) will meet in the ASCS office on December 11 at 9:30 A.M. for the County Convention. They will serve as delegates to the Convention to elect one person to serve on the County Committee.

Results of the convention will be publicized, however, in the meantime if you wish to attend, the convention is open to the public.

VIRGINIA FIRE-CURED SALES - Record high averages marked opening sales of the 1980 crop of Virginia fire-cured tobacco. Stronger prices by grades pushed averages to the new levels despite a decline in quality from opening week a year ago. Volume was generally heavy and very little tobacco was placed under loan.

Gross sales as follows:

Market	Week Ending Dec. 4, 1980 Pounds	Average	Week Ending Nov. 29, 1979 Pounds	Average
Blackstone	282,693	$122.29	271,129	$108.39
Farmville	281,224	130.65	272,863	121.27
Lynchburg	313,791	144.46	341,835	121.76
TOTAL	857,818	$133.09	885,777	$117.51

The weekly average of $133.09 was up $15.58 from opening week last season and was $8.53 above the previous record set the week ending December 16, 1976. A new single day average of $137.72 was set December 3 erasing the old mark of $128.15 for December 15, 1976.

Grade averages were up as much as $48 from the first week last year, but most gains were from $25 to $33 per hundred. N2 was the only grade that showed a loss. Top average was $198 paid for C2F 46 with N2 the lowest at $42 per hundred.

Composition of offerings changed a great deal from a year ago. A sharp drop was shown in heavy leaf with increases in thin leaf and nondescript. Also, more tobacco was classed as fair or low quality with less fine and good. Percentages by groups were: heavy leaf 14; thin leaf 54; lugs 18; and nondescript 13 percent. From a color standpoint, medium and dark brown declined while more mixed and green color were sold.

The Dark Tobacco Sales Cooperative received only 7,717 pounds or 0.9 percent of opening week sales. Last season, 64,000 pounds or 7.2 percent of first week sales placed under loan. Support prices for 1980 are based on an average of 98.9 cents per pound, 8.5 cents higher than 1979.

Production of Type 21 tobacco for 1980 was estimated at 4,000,000 pounds by the USDA Crop Reporting Board in their November release. Producers' sales in 1979 totaled 5.4 million pounds. Total fire-cured harvest in the United States is expected to reach 34,450,000 pounds compared to sales of 44.7 million in 1979.

Marketing regulations limit sales to 900,000 pounds per week, plus up to 5 percent for resales. Auctions are held three days each week (Tuesday - Thursday) with three sets of buyers. Markets will close for the holidays after sales on December 18 with a scheduled reopening date of January 27, 1981.

Management Institute planned

A Farm Management Institute is planned for farmers and spouses in early 1981. This is a three week program covering the subjects of: marketing, input economics, leasing, machinery economics, labor, institutional factors affecting agriculture, budgeting, farm records, investment analysis, tax management and others.

The cost is $280 which covers tuition and lodging. A $20 registration fee should accompany the registration. Application forms are available from this office.

* * *

Anyone who has seeded a new lawn knows that it is an expensive process. Basically, there are two grasses from which to choose--Bluegrass and Kentucky 31 Fescue. Each has different characteristics. There is no one for every homeowner. Each must choose based on their likes and desires.

Let's talk about bluegrass because we have recently made significant changes in the varieties recommended for this area of the state. A minimum of three varieties, and preferably four, should go into the mixture. Vantage should make up 35% of the mix--this variety has a high tolerance for drought conditions and is a must. Other varieties that should go into the mixture in equal amounts are:

Adelphi is a hybrid selected from the hybridization program at Rutgers University. It has been an attractive variety in trials and a dependable component in blends. Adelphi is not a good seed producer so seed at times will be in short supply.

Birka, developed in Sweden, is a new variety. Seed were available for the first time in 1978. It is attractive, persistent and fits into blends. It is susceptible to rust, as is Merlion.

Plush is a new variety which was originally selected at the New Jersey Experiment Station. It is a good seed producer. It is attractive, maintains good stands and has heat and drought tolerance.

Businesses that handle lawn seed in this county have been advised of the new variety recommendations. Call for them in planning for your seed requirements this spring.

* * *

The soil test lab is handling 800 samples a day. There is no backlog. Now is the time to take samples.

* * *

The opportunity to participate in the predictive nematode assay program expires December 21.

* * *

"The South 40"
by JAMES A. SMITH
EXTENSION AGENT

Tobacco, soybean and corn producers should take samples.

Remember, a sample should not represent more than four acres.

A new publication--"Alfalfa, A Guide to Production and Intergrated Pest Management in the Midwest"--is off the press. It is a loose leaf manual that sells for $5.50. If you would like a copy, we can provide the address.

* * *

Looks like a big planting of soft, red winter wheat across the south. Georgia, for example, projects a 20-30 percent increase in wheat acres.

* * *

In ten of the last eleven years, fertilizer prices have been less in fall than in the spring. Putting fall prices as a percent of spring prices we find that the average over the past eleven years was nitrogen 92%, 94% for phosphorous and 93% for potash.

* * *

July '81 wheat futures are up significantly. Several days ago they were at $5.85 per bushel. That's worth $1.80 to $5.00 here or about $1.00 over last year's harvest price.

Some are projecting that as much as 40% of the crop will be priced this month if price remains at this level or rises. I understand that many producers are selling 15 to 25 percent of their July harvest.

* * *

Farmers Tax Guides are now available for your use. Pick up a copy at the Extension Office or one of the banks.

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Troop 322 holds Court Of Honor

By JEWEL MCCOY

Junior Girl Scout Troop #322, under the direction of leader Ellen Armentrout had Court of Honor meetings Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.

The Court of Honor makes plans and decisions for the whole troop. The patrol leaders and the troop leader are all members of the Court of Honor.

Those who attended are Sissy Knight, Patrol Leader of the Clover Leaf Patrol; Marlisa Mosley, Patrol Leader of the Holly Patrol; Laureen Garcia, Patrol Leader of the Star of Bethlehem Patrol; Jewel McCoy, Troop Scribe and Celeste Bartelt, Troop Treasurer.

The Troop plans to have a Christmas program and party at the Memorial United Methodist Church on Thursday, December 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All girls who want a gift must bring a gift. We plan to make Christmas decorations using nails and jar lids, so bring a hammer.

The Troop plans to join with all Appomattox Girl Scout and Brownie troops and some Buckingham troops in having a skating party at A. J. Skateworld on Tuesday, Dec. 30, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold by Brownies and Girl Scouts to anyone interested in skating that evening. If a girl sells 10 tickets, she may get in free, paid by her Girl Scout Service Unit. Tickets are $2.00 each plus .50 skate rental.

Our next Court of Honor meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 6, 1981.

Christmas dinner meeting set

The Appomattox Chapter of the United Daughters of Confederacy will meet on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 at Maude's Restaurant for their annual Christmas dinner meeting.

For reservations call Mrs. Rachel Lawson at 352-7436 or Mrs. Louise Plunkett at 352-8955.

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